decided to provide the following financial package/incentives to the affected registered owners of the older commercial/transport vehicles for replacement of new vehicles:—

(i) exemption from the payment of sales tax on purchase of new commercial motor vehicles; and

(ii) subsidy of 4% on interest rate on the loans to be raised from Delhi Financial Corporation on the replacement of new vehicles.

Pending Highway Proposals from Meghalaya

560. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for road projects from the State Government of Meghalaya with regard to National Highways are lying pending;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the above proposals are likely to be cleard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Examination of proposals which is done in consultation with various other agencies takes some time. It is not possible to indicate time by which these can be cleared. However, all efforts are made to clear them as early as possible.

Lengthening of Multi-Purpose Cargo Berth at Visakhapatnam

561. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether multi-purpose cargo berth of Visakhapatnam port is being lengthened;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when would it be ready?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Estimate for Rs. 23.88 crores is sanctioned by Visakhapatnam Port Trust Board for construction of Second Multi-purpose Berth by extending the Multiple Berth in Visakhapatnam Outer Harbour. Extension of berth proposed is 167.0. M to make total length of berth to 450.0 M to enable handling vessels upto 1,00,000 DWT requiring 16.5 M dredged depth or two vessels of smaller capacity.

(c) Target date for completion is March, 2001.

Four-Laning of Delhi-Ajmer National Highway

562. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the traffic on Delhi-Ajmer National Highway is very heavy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that serious accidents occur on this highway owing to narrow roads;

(c) whether the Ministry intends to convert it into four way highway to avoid these accidents; and

(d) if so, by when; and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The portion of National Highway No. 8 from Delhi to Gurgaon is already four laned. However, from Gurgaon (in Haryana) to Kotputli (in Rajasthan), the work of four-laning is in progress and is targeted to be completed by March, 2001. From Kotputli to Amer Section of the road, four-laning works stand completed and Jaipur bypass is under construction. It is proposed to upgrade the section from Jaipur to Kishangarh into six lane carriageway under Private Sector participation on BOT basis.